

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 00988 171223Z

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8962

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, CB, FR

SUBJECT: ORTF PROGRAM ON CAMBODIA

REFS: A. PHNOM PENH 830

B. PARIS 01382

C. PARIS 01018

1. EMBASSY OFFICER ON JANUARY 17 DISCUSSED ORTF PROGRAM PER
REFTEL B WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION
OF FUNK MAP OTHER SIDE HAS FURNISHED ORTF. HE OFFERED EMBASSY
TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES FOR TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION REQUESTED
BY GKR MILITARY ATTACHE IN PARIS. OFFICIAL SAID THAT MINISTER
OF INFORMATION CHHANG SONG HAD BEEN TASKED WITH RESPONSE ALONG
LINES REFTEL C, AND PROMISED TO APPRISE SONG OF NEW, MORE
URGENT DEADLINE AND ATTACHE'S SUGGESTION ON HOW TO HANDLE THE
PROBLEM.

2. FOREIGN MINISTR OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT, REGARDLESS OF
WHAT GKR MIGHT ULTIMATELY SEND TO PARIS FROM CAMBODIA,
SAMYL MANIPONG MIGHT IN ANY CASE WISH TO USE DATA IN
BOOKLET MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PREPARED IN 1974 EN-
TITLED "L'AGGRESSION DES NORD-VIETNAIENS ET VIETCONG
CONTRE LA REPUBLIQUE KHMERE" (1970-1974). THE
BOOKLET CONTAINS FOUR MAPS HIGHLIGHTING ILLEGAL NVA/VC
PRESENCE IN CAMBODIA, AN APPROPRIATE TOPIC, THE
OFFICIAL POINTED OUT, FOR A PROGRAM ON THE PARISACCORDS.
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 00988 171223Z

EMBASSY OFFICER PROMISED TO PASS THE SUGGESTION ALONG

TO PARIS.

3. OFFICIAL, ALTHOUGH AGREEING ON THE NEED TO REBUT
THE GRUNK VERSION OF THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION, SEEMED
DUBIOUS ABOUT WHETHER THE INFORMATION COULD BE PREPARED
IN TIME. EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THAT PORTION OF ORTF
PROGRAM ON CAMBODIA ONLY A MINUTE AND A HALF, AND ELABOR-
ATE PRESENTATION PROBABLY NOT NECESSARY. HOWEVER, WHAT-
EVER COULD BE GOTTEN TOGETHER, EVEN IF NOT AS MUCH OR
EXACTLY AS REQUESTED BY ATTACHE, COULD USEFULLY BE
CABLED SO AS TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING AT LEAST TO WORK WITH.
MINISTRY OFFICIAL PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD.

4. WE WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE FOREIGN AND
INFORMATION MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON THIS. THERE IS,
HOWEVER, A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THT GKR, DESPITE
OUR URGING, AND GIVEN THE SHORT FUSE ON THE ORTF
REQUEST, WILL DROP THE BALL. THE ATTACHE MIGHT BE
WELL ADVISED TO GET MOBILIZED ON HIS OWN.

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